

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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Jersey City Host Dominican Independence Day Celebration Featuring Keynote Speaker Wanda Silva and Honored Guest Richard Cepeda

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the **Municipal Council** and the **Department of Health & Human Services/Division of Cultural Affairs** will host a **Dominican Independence Celebration** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010** at **Middle School # 4**, located at 104 Bright Street.

The event will feature keynote speaker **Wanda Silva** and honored guest music legend **Richard Cepeda**. This year, the event is being dedicated to the earthquake victims of Haiti and a special cultural performance will take place in their honor.

In 1986, **Wanda Silva** moved to New York City from the Dominican Republic to attend SUNY Old Westbury College in Long Island. After graduating with a dual degree in Political Science and Journalism, Wanda began her chosen career as a Spanish TV Journalist. For the past 15 years, Wanda has worked as an investigative reporter and TV producer for both Univision and Telemundo in major Spanish markets like Dallas, Los Angeles and New York. Recently, she returned to New York as a freelance reporter for Univision. As an Emmy winning journalist, Wanda's passion is to create content for Spanish TV viewers that informs, educates, and entertains.

The spiritual convictions of multi-instrumentalist **Richard Cepeda** have been expressed through his merengue-influenced music. An ordained minister and evangelist, Cepeda has produced sacred recordings for such artists as Giovanni Rios, Mary Rodriguez, David and Abraham, Edwin Ramirez, Cristy Towers, Eric Perdomo, and Maribel Grove. His debut album, *Llenate De Gozo*, was named Tropical Disc of 1997. His second album, *Con Jubile Con Alegria*, which followed two years later, was equally impressive. The American-born son of Dominican and Puerto Rican parents, Cepeda studied violin, piano, and acoustic guitar as a youngster. His first professional performances came as a member of his uncle, Bonny Cepeda's merengue band.

For more information on the **Dominican Celebration**, please contact Greg Malave at (201) 284-8312.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-369-0699.///